

Highlights from ED Tabs: State Library Agencies, Fiscal Year 1998

Governance

- ◆ Nearly all state library agencies (48 states and the District of Columbia) are located in the executive branch of government. Of these, over 65 percent are part of a larger agency, the most common being the state department of education. In two states, Arizona and Michigan, the agency is located in the legislative branch (tables 1a and 1b).

Allied and Other Special Operations

- ◆ A total of 15 state library agencies reported having one or more allied operations (table 2). Allied operations most frequently linked with a state library agency are the state archives (10 states) and the state records management service (10 states).
- ◆ Seventeen state library agencies contract with public or academic libraries in their states to serve as resource or reference/information service centers. Eighteen state library agencies host or provide funding for a State Center for the Book² (table 2).

Electronic Services and Information

- ◆ All state library agencies plan or monitor electronic network development; 45 states and the District of Columbia operate such networks; and 44 states and the District of Columbia develop network content (table 3).³
- ◆ Thirty-four state library agencies were applicants to the Universal Service (E-rate discount) Program established by the Federal Communications Commission under the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-104) (appendix B).⁴
- ◆ All state library agencies facilitate library access to the Internet in one or more of the following ways: training or consulting library staff in the use of the Internet; providing a subsidy for Internet participation; providing equipment to access the Internet; providing access to directories, databases, or online catalogs; and managing gopher/Web sites, file servers, bulletin boards, or listservs (table 3).

² The State Center for the Book is part of the Center for the Book program sponsored by the Library of Congress which promotes books, reading, and literacy, and is hosted or funded by the state.

³ Network content refers to database development. Database development activities may include the creation of new databases or the conversion of existing databases into electronic format. Includes bibliographic databases as well as full text or data files.

⁴ Under this program, the FCC promotes affordable access to the Internet and the availability of Internet services to the public, with special attention given to schools and libraries. Appendix B lists the state library agencies that were applicants to this program.

- ◆ Forty-four state library agencies provide or facilitate library access to on-line databases through subscription, lease, license, consortial membership, or agreement (table 3).
- ◆ Almost all state library agencies facilitate or subsidize electronic access to the holdings of other libraries in their state, most frequently through Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) participation (42 states and the District of Columbia) (table 5). Over half provide access via a Web-based union catalog (30 states) or Telnet gateway (27 states).
- ◆ Forty-six state library agencies have Internet terminals available for public use, ranging in number from 2 to 5 (15 states); 5 to 9 (13 states); 10 to 19 (8 states); and 20 to 29 (7 states) and 30 or more (3 states). Michigan reported the largest number of public-use Internet terminals (41) (table 4).

Library Development Services

Services to Public Libraries

- ◆ Every state library agency provides the following types of services to public libraries: administration of Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grants, collection of library statistics, and library planning, evaluation, and research. Nearly every state library agency provides consulting services and continuing education programs (table 6a).
- ◆ Services to public libraries provided by at least three-quarters of state agencies include administration of state aid, interlibrary loan referral services, library legislation preparation or review, literacy program support, reference referral services, state standards or guidelines, summer reading program support, union list development, and review of technology plans for the Universal Service (E-rate discount) Program (table 6a).
- ◆ Over three-fifths of state agencies provide OCLC Group Access Capability (GAC) to public libraries and statewide publication relations or library promotion campaigns (table 6a).
- ◆ Less common services to public libraries include accreditation of libraries, certification of librarians, cooperative purchasing of library materials, preservation/conservation services, and retrospective conversion of bibliographic records (table 6a).

Services to Academic Libraries

- ◆ At least two-thirds of state library agencies provide the following services to the academic library sector: administration of LSTA grants, continuing education, interlibrary loan referral services, and reference referral services (table 6b).
- ◆ Less common services to academic libraries include cooperative purchasing of library materials, literacy program support, preservation/conservation, retrospective conversion, and state standards or guidelines. No state library agency accredits academic libraries; only Washington state certifies academic librarians (table 6b).

Services to School Library Media Centers

- ◆ At least two-thirds of state library agencies provide the following services to school library media centers (LMCs): administration of LSTA grants, continuing education, interlibrary loan referral services, and reference referral services (table 6c). Services to LMCs provided by at least half of all state agencies include consulting services and union list development (table 6c).
- ◆ Less common services to LMCs include administration of state aid, cooperative purchasing of library materials, retrospective conversion, and Universal Service Program review. No state library agency accredits LMCs or certifies LMC librarians (table 6c).

Services to Special Libraries

- ◆ Over two-thirds of state library agencies serve special libraries⁵ through administration of LSTA grants, consulting services, continuing education, interlibrary loan referral, reference referral, and union list development (table 6d).
- ◆ Less common services to special libraries include administration of state aid, cooperative purchasing of library materials, and summer reading program support. Only Nebraska accredits special libraries and only Indiana and Washington state certify librarians of special libraries (table 6d).

Services to Systems

- ◆ At least three-fifths of state library agencies serve library systems⁶ through administration of LSTA grants, consulting services, continuing education, interlibrary loan referral, library legislation preparation or review, and library planning, evaluation, and research (table 6e).
- ◆ Accreditation of library systems is provided by only six states, and certification of systems librarians by only five states (table 6e).

Service Outlets

- ◆ State library agencies reported a total of 152 service outlets –72 main or central outlets, 71 other outlets (excluding bookmobiles), and 9 bookmobiles (table 7).

⁵ A library in a business firm, professional association, government agency, or other organized group; a library that is maintained by a parent organization to serve a specialized clientele; or an independent library that may provide materials or services, or both, to the public, a segment of the public, or to other libraries. Scope of collections and services are limited to the subject interests of the host or parent institution. Includes libraries in state institutions.

⁶ A system is a group of autonomous libraries joined together by formal or informal agreements to perform various services cooperatively such as resource sharing, communications, etc. Includes multitype library systems and public library systems. Excludes multiple outlets under the same administration.

Collections

- ◆ The number of books and serial volumes held by state library agencies totaled 22.0 million, with New York accounting for the largest collection (2.4 million) (table 9). Five state agencies had book and serial volumes of over one million. In other states, collections ranged from 500,000 to one million (11 states); 200,000 to 499,999 (12 states); 100,000 to 199,999 (8 states); 50,000 to 99,999 (7 states); and under 50,000 (6 states). The state library agency in Maryland does not maintain a collection, and the District of Columbia does not maintain a collection in its function as a state library agency.⁷
- ◆ The number of serial subscriptions held by state library agencies totaled over 82,000, with New York holding the largest number (over 12,100) (table 9). Ten state library agencies reported serial subscriptions of over 2,000. In other states, these collections ranged from 1,000 to 1,999 (7 states), 500 to 999 (16 states), 100 to 499 (13 states), and under 100 (2 states). The state library agencies in Maryland and the District of Columbia do not maintain collections, and Indiana does not maintain statistics on this item.

Staff

- ◆ The total number of budgeted full-time equivalent (FTE) positions in state library agencies was 3,766 (table 12a). Librarians with American Library Association-Master of Library Science (ALA-MLS) degrees accounted for 1,206 of these positions, or 32.0 percent of total FTE positions. Rhode Island reported the largest percentage (57.1 percent) of ALA-MLS librarians, and Virginia reported the lowest (16.3 percent).

Income

- ◆ State library agencies reported a total income of \$886.2 million in FY 1998 (81.3 percent from state sources, 16.7 percent from federal sources, and 2.0 percent from other sources) (table 15).⁸
- ◆ Of state library agency income received from state sources, over \$509 million (70.7 percent) was designated for state aid to libraries (table 17). In 11 states, over 75 percent of income from state sources was set aside for state aid. Georgia had the largest percentage of state library agency income set aside for state aid (97.3 percent). Six states (Hawaii, Iowa, New Hampshire, South Dakota, Vermont, Wyoming) and the District of Columbia targeted no state funds for aid to

⁷ In Maryland, Enoch Pratt Central, the central library of the Enoch Pratt Free Library is designated by state law as the State Library Resource Center. In the District of Columbia, the Martin Luther King Memorial Library, the central library of the District of Columbia Public Library, functions as a resource center for the municipal government.

⁸ Federal income includes State Program grant awards under the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) (P.L. 104-208); remaining income reported for Title II of the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) (P.L. 101-254); in Arizona, LSCA Title I award for fiscal year 1992 (award was not available earlier due to litigation); and other federal income. Note: LSCA was superseded by LSTA, but some LSCA funds are still unspent.

libraries; instead, 95 to 100 percent of their state funds were set aside for state library agency operations.⁹

Expenditures

- ◆ State library agencies reported total expenditures of \$863.5 million (table 18). The largest percentage (84.0 percent) was from state funds, followed by federal funds (14.4 percent), and other funds (1.6 percent).
- ◆ In five states, over 90 percent of total expenditures were from state sources (table 18). These states were Georgia (94.0 percent), Massachusetts (93.4 percent), New York (92.3 percent), West Virginia (90.7 percent), and Maryland (90.4 percent). The District of Columbia had the lowest percentage of expenditures from state sources (36.7), followed by Wyoming (52.2 percent).
- ◆ Financial assistance to libraries accounted for 69.0 percent of total state library expenditures, with the largest percentages expended on individual public libraries (55.2 percent) and public library systems (15.9 percent) (tables 23 and 25c). Most of the expenditures for financial assistance to libraries were from state sources (88.0 percent), while 11.8 percent were from federal sources (table 20).
- ◆ Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) expenditures accounted for 84.1 percent of total federal expenditures (tables 18 and 26a). The largest percentage of LSTA expenditures was distributed as grants to libraries (57.3 percent). Funds expended directly by the state library agencies on statewide services accounted for 40.5 percent of LSTA expenditures.
- ◆ Fourteen state library agencies reported expenditures for allied operations (table 27). These expenditures totaled over \$23.1 million and represented 2.7 percent of total expenditures by state library agencies. Of states reporting such expenditures, Virginia had the highest expenditure (\$3.8 million) and Kansas the lowest (\$110,000).¹⁰
- ◆ Twenty-nine state library agencies reported a total of almost \$19.0 million in grants and contracts expenditures to assist public libraries with state education reform initiatives or the National Education Goals (table 28). The area of lifelong learning accounted for the largest proportion of such expenditures (43.3 percent), followed by the areas of adult literacy (29.8 percent) and readiness for school (26.9 percent). Such expenditures were focused exclusively on readiness for school projects in five states (Louisiana, Nebraska, Oregon, Tennessee, and Utah); on adult literacy in three states (New Hampshire, New Jersey, and Oklahoma); and on lifelong learning in two states (Colorado and Massachusetts).

⁹ The District of Columbia Public Library functions as a state library agency and is eligible for Federal LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act) funds in this capacity. The state library agency in Hawaii is associated with the Hawaii State Public Library System and operates all public libraries within its jurisdiction. The state funds for aid to libraries for these two agencies are reported on the NCES Public Libraries Survey, rather than on the STLA survey, because of the unique situation of these two state agencies, and in order to eliminate duplicative reporting of these data.

¹⁰ Although Alaska reported allied operations (see table 2), the expenditures for such operations are not from the state library agency budget.